

### ***Remarks***

Claims 1-9, 11-18, and 20-53, now renumbered as claims 1-51, are pending in this application and have been allowed. No claims are been amended, cancelled or added by this amendment. In view of the following remarks, entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested.

#### ***Examiner's Amendment***

Applicants hereby accept the Examiner's Amendment included with the Notice of Allowability mailed June 8, 2005.

#### ***Amendments to the Specification***

The Amendment to the Specification set forth above is submitted to claim priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/132,098 in the first paragraph of the Specification. This claim of priority has been acknowledged by the corrected filing receipt mailed March 3, 2000, and thus, the proposed amendment does not constitute new matter. Additionally, the proposed amendment does not affect the scope of the allowed claims. Therefore, the proposed amendment should be entered.

#### ***Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance***

In reply to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicants note that portions of the Examiner's comments paraphrase claim features and do not accurately represent the actual claim language. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims should be deemed patentable for the actual claim language recited therein. Applicants also respectfully submit that patentability is based on the subject matter of the claims as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9, 18, 25, 28, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 47 are all separately patentable from each other and are

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patentable for the subject matter specifically recited as a whole in each of those claims.

These comments are being filed before payment of the Issue Fee.

***Conclusion***

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Dated: August 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram  
Registration No.: 48,283

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP  
1600 Tysons Blvd.  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
703-905-2107